

Army Officer

Introduction

As an Army Officer, you will command, motivate and lead teams of men and women. You'll work in one of a variety of specialist corps and regiments. You must decide which corps or regiment you want to join when you apply.

Also known as

- Soldier (Army Officer)
- Officer (Army)

Work Activities

There are seven career groups in the Army: Combat; Engineering; Logistics and Support; Intelligence, IT and Communications; Human Resources (HR) and Finance; Medical and Music and Ceremonial.

Combat Officers must be ready to fight on the front line. You will also help keep the peace in places where there is conflict, and make sure that aid gets where it is needed. Jobs include Infantry Platoon Officer, Artillery Troop Officer and Pilot. Women do not work in front line fighting posts.

Engineering supports the front line forces. You'll make sure that the Army's equipment is kept in full working order. Jobs include Engineering Platoon Officer and Design Engineer Team Officer.

Logistics and Support makes sure that all branches of the Army have everything they need to operate effectively. You will do this through a transport and distribution network. Jobs include Logistics Troop Officer, Aviation Support Officer and Military Police Officer.

Intelligence, IT and Communications gather information about the enemy and pass it on to where it is needed. You will also provide a link between soldiers out in the field and those back at base. Jobs include Communication Troop Officer and Intelligence Officer.

Human Resources (HR) and Finance provide the desk-based support that the Army needs to run effectively. This includes being responsible for salaries, welfare issues, paying suppliers and balancing the books. Jobs include Legal Officer, HR Officer and Education Officer.

Medical branch looks after the health and well-being of the Army. You will work wherever you are needed, whether at a military hospital or out in the field. Jobs include Doctor, Veterinary Officer and Pharmacist Officer.

As an Officer in the **Music and Ceremonial** branch, you'll represent the Army at state occasions and military parades.

You must be prepared to live and serve anywhere in the UK and overseas. You will sometimes have to work in difficult, dangerous (and sometimes life-threatening) conditions.

Personal Qualities and Skills

To become an Army Officer, you will need:

- a responsible attitude
- leadership skills
- administrative, organisational and management skills
- written and spoken communication skills
- stamina and endurance
- physical fitness



You also need to be able to:

- motivate
- make decisions
- lead by example
- impose discipline
- be adaptable
- accept responsibility
- work well as a member of a team

Each trade has specific requirements in terms of personal qualities and skills. For some trades, your colour vision and/or hearing will be tested.

You may serve under combat conditions and will need to demonstrate skills of weapon handling and fieldcraft.

Pay and Opportunities

Pay

Army Officers are paid according to official pay scales:

- Starting: £26,504
- 2nd Lieutenant: £31,857
- Lieutenant: £32,975
- Captain: £40,826
- Major: £51,425

Hours of work

Hours of work for Army Officers vary depending on operational requirements, but may include shifts, early starts, late finishes, weekend work and working on public holidays.

As an Army Officer, you may need to work at short notice, and you should expect to work longer hours during military exercises or on operational missions.

Where could I work?

Officers are based at military locations throughout the UK.

Army Officers can expect to be deployed anywhere in the world, sometimes at short notice. This can mean extended periods spent away from home.

Where are vacancies advertised?

See the Army's website for the latest recruitment information.

Entry Routes and Training

Entry routes

To join the Army as an Officer, you usually need to be aged between 18 and 26. For some roles you can join if you are older than 26.

You can speak to a careers adviser at an Army Careers Centre or through live chat at www.army.mod.uk to work out whether officer training is right for you.

There is a four-step process to go through before you can become an Army Officer: application, interview, assessment and training. This involves an assessment of your medical condition, physical fitness and suitability for

the job. The final selection process takes three and a half days.

Funding

Financial help is available for potential Officers. There are five different bursary options, which include:

- Army Undergraduate Bursary - Standard (AUBS)
- Army Undergraduate Bursary - Enhanced (AUBE)
- Army Undergraduate Bursary - Technical (AUBT)
- Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS)
- Professionally Qualified Officer (PQO) Bursary

To apply for one of these bursaries, you will need to have at least 72 UCAS points. At degree level, you will need to be able to achieve a 2:2 degree. You must also need to have passed Officer selection before applying.

For more information, check the army website (<https://apply.army.mod.uk/how-to-join/entryoptions/officer-bursary>)

Training

All Officers complete 44 weeks of military and leadership training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Once you join your regiment or corps, you'll undertake further specialist training, relevant to your chosen area of work.

You will continue to develop your skills and knowledge, throughout your time in the Army.

Professionally-qualified Doctors, Vets, Lawyers, Dentists, Nurses, Physiotherapists or Chaplains who are accepted for officer training, attend a shorter induction course.

Progression

You can move up the ranks to higher-level jobs; there are clear progression routes and opportunities for promotion.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act

Some careers in the Army - working with children and vulnerable adults, and working with sensitive information - are exceptions to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that you must supply information about any spent or unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings, if asked to. This is different from other careers, where you only have to reveal information on unspent convictions if you are asked to.

Qualifications

For entry to the Army as an Officer, the usual minimum requirements are:

- 180 UCAS points from at least 2 A levels, and a maximum of 3
- 35 ALIS points from your 7 best GCSEs
- minimum GCSE grade C/4 in English language, maths, and either a science subject or a foreign language

Other qualifications, such as a BTEC level 3 qualification or the International Baccalaureate Diploma could also be considered.

Exact entry requirements will vary according to your chosen corps or regiment, and your chosen specialism.

Many new officers are graduates. Your degree subject is usually unimportant, unless you are applying to a regiment/corps that requires a specialist education. These include engineering, the medical corps and the legal services branch.

Some universities accept the Welsh Baccalaureate as equivalent to 1 A level.

Adult Opportunities

Age limits

Age limits apply to this occupation.

In general, you must be 26 or younger at the beginning of your training at Sandhurst. However, age limits for professionally qualified officers are higher.

Areas with higher age limits include:

- legal officer: 31 (and 11 months)
- dentist: 54 (and 11 months)
- doctor: 54 (and 11 months)
- nursing officer: 38 (and 11 months)

Funding

Financial help is available for potential officers through the following schemes:

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- **Army scholarship** (£1,500 p.a. for up to 2 years) - Financial support for the last 2 years of school. Scholars are expected to go on to study for a degree and apply for an undergraduate bursary
- **Undergraduate bursary** (£1,000 p.a. plus £3,000 on commissioning)
- **Technical bursaries** (£4,000 p.a.) - Awarded to graduates of Welbeck while they study for their degree.
- **Medical / Dental cadetships** (£14,983 on appointment rising to £18,671 after 2 years) - The salaries of these professionally qualified officers will match the level of qualification and experience.

The **Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme** is available for those studying an approved engineering or science subject at one of the following universities: Aston, Cambridge, Loughborough, Newcastle, Northumbria, Oxford or Southampton.

Dental, medical and veterinary cadetships are available to those within three years of completing their studies.

Further Information

Contact your local Army or Armed Forces Careers Office.

Contacts

- **Skills for Justice**
Skills for justice, community safety, armed forces and legal services
Address: Distington House, 26 Atlas Way, Sheffield S4 7QQ
Tel: 0114 2611499
Email: info@sfjuk.com
Website: www.sfjuk.com
- **Ministry of Defence (MOD)**
Website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence

- **British Army Jobs**
Tel: 0345 600 8080
Website: www.army.mod.uk/join/
- **Army Cadets**
Website: armycadets.com/
- **People Exchange Cymru (PEC)**
Public sector recruitment portal for Wales
Email: peopleexchange@cymru.gov.wales
Website: www.peopleexchange@cymru.gov.wales

Related Careers

- RAF Airman/Woman
- Army Serviceman/woman
- Royal Marines Commando
- Royal Navy Rating
- Armed Forces Pilot
- RAF Officer
- Royal Marines Officer
- Royal Navy Officer